

### Why is this survey being done?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is working to improve the safety and health of American workers. As part of this effort, NIOSH/Pittsburgh Research Laboratory (PRL) is collecting a variety of demographic and other data on the mining industry.

Since 1986, there has been little study of the demographics of the mining labor force, such as age, gender, job title, languages used, educational attainment, race, ethnicity, and years of mining experience. These data are needed to customize safety and health interventions for specific groups of the mining industry and to understand the risk of work-related injuries, disease and fatalities. These data can also be used to learn more about the underlying causes of these events and to identify ways to reduce their occurrence.

NIOSH/PRL is sponsoring this survey of mining operations and their employees to fill this data gap. Our main objectives are to:

- collect basic information about mining operations;
- establish the demographic and occupational characteristics of mine operator employees for each mining commodity (i.e., coal, metal, nonmetal, stone, and sand and gravel); and
- estimate the number of independent contractor employees used by mining operations and their occupational characteristics.

### Why are two questionnaires being used?

There are two sets of data being collected in this survey:

- The **mine questionnaire** includes questions about the mining operation and its use of independent contractors.
- The **employee questionnaire** includes demographic and occupational questions about individual mine employees.

It is important that you complete ***both*** parts of the survey booklet.

### Why was my mining operation chosen?

Your mining operation was randomly selected from a list of mining operations located in the United States. The sample must represent the diversity of mining operations across the Nation. The information you provide is essential to obtain an accurate picture of the mining industry across different commodity sectors.

### Who will see my responses?

Only NIOSH researchers will see your responses. The answers from all cooperating mines will be published only as summarized data so that no single company or individual employee can be identified.

### Do I need to report data for all employees of our mining operation?

If you have **less than 30** employees at this mining operation, we ask you to report for all of them.

If you have **30 or more** employees at this mine, we ask you to report data for only a sample of them.

Instructions are provided in the questionnaire booklet on how to select employees for this survey.

Our aim is to make the sampling of employees as simple as possible and reduce the burden associated with reporting data for employees who work for this mining operation. In order to get good data about the mining industry, it is very important that you sample accurately.

### Should I include contractors in the employee questionnaire?

Contractor information should only be included in the **mine questionnaire**. Contractors should ***not*** be counted as employees in completing the employee questionnaire. Only data for mine operator employees should be included on the employee questionnaire.

If the mining operation is being run by your company under contract to the owner, report for your employees but exclude workers associated with other independent contractors.

**Is it appropriate for me to release  
information about employees  
who work here?**

You will not be reporting the names of individual employees. The data you provide in the employee questionnaire cannot be linked to any of your individual employees. The employee data will be treated in a confidential manner.

**How long will the survey take?**

It should take an average of 90 minutes to complete the survey, although this varies by mining operation.

**Am I required to participate?**

Your participation is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any question to which you object. However, the participation of each selected mining operation is vital to the success of the survey.

**What will the mining industry and  
my mine get out of this?**

NIOSH will use the information you provide to customize safety and health interventions and calculate occupational rates for various miner subgroups. The ultimate goal is to minimize and prevent work-related injuries and disease that harm miners and reduce productivity. Once the study is completed, NIOSH will send you a copy of the final report.

*For further information on the purpose  
of this survey, please contact:*

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<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/topics/data/survey.html>

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*For further information on how to fill  
out the questionnaire, please contact:*

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National Survey of the  
Mining Population

## Questions and Answers



Sponsored by the  
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